

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 10, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing in support of the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) five applications for funding under the ARRA Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants program. The State's efforts in implementing highway and transit projects under P.L. 111-5, "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" (ARRA) is reflective of the work Maryland is putting into ensuring the swift, transparent implementation of projects that will preserve and create jobs as well as promote economic recovery.

These projects were selected after an extensive project solicitation and review period that involved coordination between MDOT and potential partners to select State- and locally-prioritized projects with the highest probability of success. If the State is given the opportunity to implement TIGER-funded projects, we are confident the State will continue to ensure that such funds are used to assist those most impacted by the recession as investments providing long-term economic benefits.

1. **MARC Capacity and Service Reliability Improvements** - \$48 million: This funding would improve service on regional passenger rail, divert freight off of highways, and reduce fuel use and emissions along the CSXT Camden and Brunswick Lines leading to our nation's capitol.
2. **Central Maryland Transit Maintenance Facility** – \$25 million: This funding would increase the capacity of local, State, and Department of Defense (DoD)-funded transit (bus and van) service for the existing regional population and growing numbers of military and civilian DoD employees at both Fort George G. Meade and the National Security Agency due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).
3. **BRAC Transportation Improvements in Maryland** – \$58 million: This funding would address congestion due to anticipated increases in traffic volumes and transit ridership as a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)-related growth at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Harford County, Fort George G. Meade in Anne Arundel County, and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Montgomery County, MD.
4. **MD 5 Branch Ave Metro Access Phase 2/Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Project** – \$56 million: This funding would improve access to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's

(WMATA) Branch Ave Metrorail Station from MD 5 (Branch Ave) and I-95/I-495 (Capitol Beltway) and thereby further the State of Maryland's priority of developing livable, sustainable communities.

5. **Masonville Vessel Berth 3** – \$20 million: This funding would be used by the Maryland Port Administration to construct a new pier at the Port of Baltimore, which is currently number two in the nation for exporting U.S.-made automobiles. The project will replace a deficient pier of World War II vintage.

We thank you for your consideration of Maryland's projects and for your continued support of infrastructure needs in Maryland.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator